THE

CONFESSION AND EXECUTION

Of the Five Priſoners that ſuffered at

TYBURN

On *Wedneſday* the 19th of *Decemb.* 1677.

VIZ.

Margaret Riggs, alias *Grover*, *William Longman*, *John Ruddocke*, *Henry Payne*, and *Elizabeth Hewet*.

WITH

An Account of their penitent Behaviour after their Condemnation, and ſubſtance of their laſt Speeches at the place of Execution.

Publiſhed for a Warning-piece to all others to avoid the lewd Courſes which brought them to their Ignominious End.

With Allowance.

London: Printed for *D. M.* 1677.

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Of the Five Prisoners that suffered at

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On Wednesday the 19th of December 1677.

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Margaret Rigby, alias Green, } Alias Redhead.
William Longman, } Henry Fayne, and Elizabeth Hyde.

WITH

An Account of their penitent Behaviour after their Condemnation, and Substance of their last Speeches at the place of Execution.

Publish'd for a Warning-piece to all others to avoid the lewd Courses which brought them to this Ignominious End.

With Allowance.

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The last Speeches, Confession, and Execution of the Prisoners, *December* 19. 1677.

DEath in its own nature is very affrighting to Man, the King of Terrours, much more when he comes attended with shameful and ignominious Circumstances; when Persons consider that they have hastened his approach by the *Errours* of their lives, and are justly cut off for their Crimes. Oh! how sad is it, when poor Souls are themselves the occasion of their being thrust out of this world by untimely Violence, and yet are not at all fitted or prepared for the next. If they look down to Earth, there is nothing but Justice and Vengeance ready to pursue them; and

if they look up to Heaven, they cannot but conclude that too pure a place for such unclean Creatures to enter into, whom the Earth it self would no longer entertain. Yet so lamentably do the Deluſions of Satan, and Witchcrafts of Sin blinde the eyes of theſe Malefactors, that they rarely reflect on theſe things till it be too late; nor will be warned by the frequent Examples of their wretched Fellow-Criminals, to leave off their wicked Courſes, till they are precipitated into the ſame Gulf of Miſery.

Of this, the Five Perſons that this day ſuffered were deplorable inſtances. After their Condemnation many charitable Divines went to viſit them, beſides the moſt diligent and careful endeavours of Mr. Ordinary, who, well knowing the weight of his Office, takes care on all occaſions to diſcharge a good Conſcience therein, by uſing all means to make them ſenſible of their ſad Condition, and prepare them for their terrible Change.

The poor Souls appeared as ignorant and unacquainted with the Principles of Chriſtian

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ſtian Religion, except only ſome bare empty notional words, as Heathens. True it is, they profeſt themſelves Chriſtians, and that they hop'd to be ſaved by the Mercies of God; but the odious nature of Sin, the neceſſity of a Saviour, the terms of a New Covenant, the nature of Repentance, Faith, and other Evangelical Graces, they were wholly ſtrangers to: But by the pains of theſe Miniſters, God was pleaſed to give them a taſte of theſe precious and moſt important Truths, though 'tis feared, by their careleſs inſenſible Carriage, ſome of them ſtill were more ſolicitous to get a Reprieve than to get Grace, and minded more to ſave their Lives for a few moments, than their Souls to eternity. So hard it is when Perſons have gone on all their lives, hardening their hearts in wickedneſs, to be mollified on a ſudden, though ſummon'd to Repentance by a preſent and unavoidable Death.

One of theſe perſons was heretofore Condemned, and now juſtly brought to ſuffer.

Another about two years ſince was Convicted and received Sentence of Death, but obtain-

obtaining a Reprieve, after long lying in Newgate, obtain'd his Liberty by the General Pardon; but was now brought in for ſtealing a parcel of Swords.

Another was by trade a Sawyer, and had lived neer *Iſlington*: he had formerly been burnt in the hand, and ſeveral times in Goal; and having lately follow'd the Foot-Pad, was Condemn'd for a Robbery on the Highway.

Mrs. *Riggs* was notoriouſly infamous; ſeveral of her Children had been executed, and ſhe a year or two ago tranſported for ſtealing Silks; but returning before her time, was now again Convicted of ſtealing, and call'd to her former Judgement. She caus'd her Coffin to be made & brought into the Priſon to her; and we wiſh that ſhe had provided for her Soul as well as for her Carcaſs.

The other woman was Convicted about a year and a half ſince, and upon the General Pardon gave Bail to tranſport her ſelf within ſuch a time; but never did it, but fell to her old wicked Courſes, in which being now taken, ſhe was Condemned.

There

There was another woman received Sentence to be Burnt; but she alleadging her self to be quick with Childe, which a Jury of Matrons likewise affirmed, that the Innocent Babe might not perish with the Guilty Mother, Execution for the present is suspendid.

The day before their Execution four Ministers were to visit them, and bestowed much pious pains both in *Exhortation* and *Prayer* with them, pressing them to Repent, and Confess their Sins, and give Glory to God. To whom one of them was so hardy ('tis said) as to declare, That she never in her life, that she could remember, ever felt any Convictions or Checks of Conscience for her wickedness, but now desired a longer space, promising amendment, *&c.* But they desired her not to flatter her self with any such hopes, but rather instantly to set upon the Work with all her might, and improve those few minutes she had allowed her, rather than vainly to expect longer time, and mis-spend the present.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Riggs* Confeſt ſhe had been a notorious ſinner all her days, and that ſhe had been an occaſion of bringing many poor wretches to untimely Ends, for which ſhe expreſt much ſorrow; but ſaid, for her own part ſhe did confeſs ſhe deſerved to die, and had long look'd for it, and deſired the Miniſters to pray for her.

In the Cart they behaved themſelves very penitently, weeping and wringing their hands, as likewiſe at the place of Execution; but ſaid little, ſave onely, Deſiring all people to take Example by them, and to remember this, That if they themſelves had took warning when others of their Acquaintance, under the ſame Circumſtances, with their dying breath heartily adviſed them to it, they might have prevented this ſhameful untimely Death which now they were to ſuffer. And ſo after Prayers and religious Offices uſual on ſuch occaſions, ſurrendred their Souls to the Mercies of God, and their Bodies to Execution.

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